

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 AID-05 ORM-02 IO-13 /090 W

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R 291030Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1380

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJ: POLICE ROUNDUP OF VIETNAMESE IN BANGKOK

1. IN EARLY MORNING OF JUL 28 METROPOLITAN POLICE
ROUNDED UP APPROXIMATELY 100 (PRESS REPORTS VARY
FROM 71 TO 167 PERSONS ARRESTED) VIETNAMESE "REFUGEES"
FOR RESIDING ILLEGALLY IN BANGKOK. PRESS STATES
MOST OF THOSE PICKED UP WERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN
WHO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED AFTER PAYMENT
\$2.50 FINE; THOSE WITHOUT PROPER RESIDENCE PAPERS
WILL REPORTEDLY BE RETURNED TO NORTHEAST. NEWS
REPORTS SAID THAT POLICE HAD TOLD THEM "REFUGEES"
INCLUDED BOTH THOSE WHO FLED VIETNAM LAST YEAR AND
OTHERS WHO HAVE RESIDED IN THAILAND SINCE 1950S.

2. JUL 29 EDITORIAL IN THE VOICE OF THE NATION
(WHICH OFTEN REFLECTS VIEWS OF MFA) ENTITLED
"PHICHA'S VISIT TO HANOI IS SABOTAGED" LAMBASTED
POLICE FOR ILL-TIMED RAID AND SUGGESTED THAT
POLICE MOVE WAS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN
PHICHA'S BARGAINING POWER IN HANOI. EDITORIAL
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STATED THAT POLICE HAD OBLIGATION TO ENFORCE

RESTRICTIONS AGAINST REFUGEES SETTLING IN BANGKOK,
BUT THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN METHODOICAL MANNER
RATHER THAN AS BIG PUBLICITY STUNT JUST AS
FOREIGN MINISTER PLANNING JOURNEY TO HANOI. EDITORIAL
NOTED THAT MUCH AHD BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT RIGHT
WING ATTEMPTING TO CREATE CONDITIONS WHEREBY MILITARY
COULD RETURN TO POWER HERE AND CONCLUDED, "THE
PIECES OF THIS JIG-SAW PUZZLE SEEMTO BE SLOWLY
FALLING INTO PLACES."

3. COMMENT: POLICE RAID WAS POORLY TIMED, BUT WE
HAVE NO EVIDENCE AS YET THAT IS WAS ORDERED AS
DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO MAKE PHICHA'S JOB IN HANOI
MORE DIFFICULT.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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04 MAY 2006

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